

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for selectively removing caffeine from a caffeine-containing catechin composition, which comprises

dissolving said caffeine-containing catechin composition in a ~~9/1 to 1/9 by weight~~ mixed solution of comprising ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ and water in a ratio ranging from 8/2 to 6/4 by weight, and then

bringing the resultant solution into contact with activated carbon, and

allowing said activate carbon to absorb caffeine to selectively remove caffeine.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for selectively removing caffeine from a caffeine-containing catechin composition, which comprises

dissolving said caffeine-containing catechin composition in a ~~9/1 to 1/9 by weight~~ mixed solution of comprising ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ and water in a ratio ranging from 8/2 to 6/4 by weight, and then

bringing the resultant solution into contact with activated carbon and also acid clay or activated clay, and

allowing said activate carbon to absorb caffeine to selectively remove caffeine.

3. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a green tea extract, which comprises

dissolving a caffeine-containing catechin composition in a ~~9/1 to 1/9 by weight~~ mixed solution of comprising ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ and water in a ratio ranging from 8/2 to 6/4 by weight, and then

bringing the resultant solution into contact with activated carbon, and

allowing said activate carbon to absorb caffeine to selectively remove caffeine.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a green tea extract, which comprises dissolving a caffeine-containing catechin composition in a ~~9/1 to 1/9 by weight~~ mixed solution of comprising ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ and water in a ratio ranging from 8/2 to 6/4 by weight, and then

bringing the resultant solution into contact with activated carbon and also acid clay or activated clay, and

allowing said activate carbon to absorb caffeine to selectively remove caffeine.

5. (Original) The process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said caffeine-containing catechin composition is a tea extract, a concentrate of a tea extract, or a purified product of a concentrate of a tea extract.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said caffeine-containing catechin composition comprises from 25 to 90 wt% of non-polymer catechins in terms of solid content.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said caffeine-containing catechin composition is one purified by a process comprising

adding a solid concentrate of a tea extract, said solid concentrate comprising from 25 to 40 wt% of non-polymer catechins, to a solution comprising ethanol ~~10/0 to 8/2 by weight of an organic solvent~~ and water in a ratio ranging from 10/0 to 8/2 by weight,

adding water to the resultant mixture to adjust a weight ratio of ~~said organic solvent~~ ethanol to water to from 9/1 to 5/5,

removing undissolved solids, and ~~then~~,

distilling off said solvent.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said caffeine-containing catechin composition is one purified by a process comprising

adding a solid concentrate of a tea extract, said solid concentrate comprising from 25 to 40 wt% of non-polymer catechins, to a solution comprising ethanol 10/0 to 8/2 by weight of an organic solvent and water in a ratio ranging from 10/0 to 8/2 by weight,

adding water to the resultant mixture to adjust a weight ratio of ~~said organic solvent~~ ethanol to water to a range of from 9/1 to 5/5,

removing solids from the resultant suspension, and ~~then~~,

distilling off said solvent from a remaining liquid phase.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said caffeine-containing catechin composition is one purified by a process comprising

dissolving a solid concentrate of a tea extract, said solid concentrate comprising from 25 to 40 wt% of non-polymer catechins, in a mixed solvent of water and ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~,

adding ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ to the resultant solution to adjust a weight ratio of ethanol ~~said organic solvent~~ to water to a range of from 9/1 to 5/5 such that a precipitate is caused to occur,

removing solids from the resultant suspension, and ~~then~~,

distilling off said organic solvents from a remaining liquid phase.

10. (Original) The process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein a weight ratio of non-polymer catechins to caffeine in the resultant green tea extract is from 7 to 60.

11. (Withdrawn) A caffeine-containing tea extract, wherein:

(a) a content of gallates in non-polymer catechins is from 45 to 60 wt%,

(b) a weight ratio of said non-polymer catechins to caffeine is from 8 to 40,

(c) a weight ratio of said non-polymer catechins to (sucrose + glucose) is from 2 to

15, and

(d) dietary fibers amount to 0.5 wt% or less of a solid content.

12. (Withdrawn) A packaged beverage comprising a green tea extract obtained by a process as defined in claim 3 or 4.

13. (Withdrawn) The packaged beverage according to claim 12, wherein said packaged beverage comprises from 0.092 to 0.5 wt% of non-polymer catechins, and a weight ratio of said non-polymer catechins to caffeine is from 7 to 60.

14. (Withdrawn) The packaged beverage according to claim 12, wherein:

said packaged beverage comprises from 0.092 to 0.5 wt% of non-polymer catechins,

(a) a content of gallates in said non-polymer catechins is from 45 to 60 wt%,

(b) a weight ratio of said non-polymer catechins to caffeine is from 8 to 40,

(c) a weight ratio of said non-polymer catechins to (sucrose + glucose) is from 2 to

15, and

(d) dietary fibers amount to 0.5 wt% or less of a solid content.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying a solid concentrate of a tea extract, said solid concentrate comprising from 25 to 40 wt% of non-polymer catechins, which comprises adding said solid concentrate to a 10/0 to 8/2 by weight of ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ and water, adding water to the resultant mixture to adjust a weight ratio of ethanol ~~said organic solvent~~ to water to from 9/1 to 5/5, removing undissolved solids, and then, distilling off said solvent.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying a solid concentrate of a tea extract, said solid concentrate comprising from 25 to 40 wt.% of non-polymer catechins, which comprises adding said solid concentrate to a 10/0 to 8/2 by weight of ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ and water, adding water to the resultant mixture to adjust a weight ratio of ethanol ~~said organic solvent~~ to water to a range of from 9/1 to 5/5, removing solids from the resultant suspension, and then, distilling off said solvent from a remaining liquid phase.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying a solid concentrate of a tea extract, said solid concentrate comprising from 25 to 40 wt% of non-polymer catechins, which comprises dissolving said solid concentrate in a mixed solvent of water and ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~, adding ethanol ~~an organic solvent~~ to the resultant solution to adjust a weight ratio of ethanol ~~said organic solvent~~ to water to a range of from 9/1 to 5/5 such that a precipitate is formed, separating solids from the resultant suspension, and then, distilling off said organic solvents from a remaining liquid phase.

18. (Original) The purification process according to any one of claims 15-17, wherein a content weight ratio $[(B)/(A)]$ of (B) oxalic acid to (A) non-polymer catechins in said concentrate of said tea extract after said purification is from 0.002 to 0.035.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A green tea extract wherein a content weight ratio $[(A)/(B)]$ of (A) non-polymer catechins to (B) total polyphenols is from 0.83 to 0.96.

21. (Withdrawn) A packaged beverage comprising:

a green tea extract as defined in claim 20,

wherein a concentration of non-polymer catechins in said beverage is from 0.092 to 0.5 wt%.